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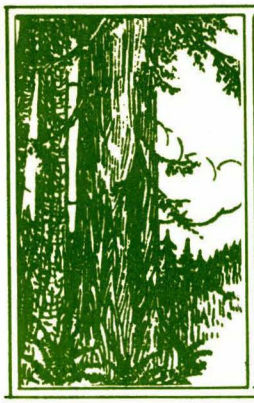
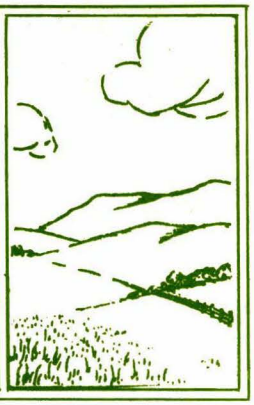


FOREST RESEARCH NOTES

U.S.DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION *

STEPHEN N. WYCKOFF, Director



No. 79 November 1951

PRODUCTION OF LOGS AND BOLTS FOR PLYWOOD, PULP, CONTAINER VENEER, SHINGLES, COOPERAGE, POLES, AND PILING IN CALIFORNIA, 1950

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By

Richard H. May, Forester
Division of Forest Economics

Early in 1951, as part of a nation-wide survey requested by the National Production Authority, the California Forest and Range Experiment Station made a survey of the equipment, supplies, and manpower requirements of the wood-using industries in California. Supplementary to this survey, data were obtained on the 1950 production of logs and bolts for pulp, container veneer, shingles and sawed shakes, cooperage, and poles and piling. These production data have considerable value as independent statistics and are here presented for the information of interested individuals and agencies.

Since only fragmentary information on production of the plywood industry was obtained in the equipment-manpower survey, the plywood log production figures included here were estimated from statistics on peeler log consumption and stocks supplied by the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, and from other data of local origin.

Sawlog production was not surveyed by the Station because similar information on lumber production is collected and published annually by the Bureau of the Census. Preliminary census figures for 1950 show a total lumber production for California and Nevada of 4.2 billion board feet.

Mine timber production is omitted from this paper because a separate report is being prepared to cover the wood requirements of the mining industry.

* MAINTAINED AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Information presented here was obtained by mailing a questionnaire to all known veneer, pulp, and shingle mills, and to concentration yards and preservation plants handling poles and piling. An exception was made for equipment-manpower "sample" plants, where the enumerators collected production figures while obtaining data on equipment, supplies, and manpower. After some follow-up of the mail canvass, an 85 to 100 percent response was obtained in the various segments of the industry, thus insuring a sound basis for estimating total production.

The output of miscellaneous timber products in California in 1950, and comparison with 1948 and 1946 are shown in Table 1. Tables 2 to 7 present the data by tree species and region for each product, poles and piling being combined in the last table. The data represent logs and bolts cut in 1950 for conversion into products during that year or for stock-piling until the following year, and are shown by region of origin. For this report, the two major timber regions of California are: the Redwood region, which includes the north coastal portion of the State, and the Pine region, which embraces the rest of the State.

HIGHLIGHTS

Logs for plywood and pulpwood, little of which was produced in 1946, are now an important segment of the timber industry in California. Production of plywood logs has doubled, and pulpwood production has tripled since 1948. Increases in both products are greater in the Redwood than in the Pine region. Both new plants and increased production in existing plants are responsible for the additional log output.

On the other hand, production of container veneer and cooperage logs and bolts has decreased since 1948. The decrease in veneer is primarily due to one large plant ceasing operations in 1949. That in cooperage continues a trend observable between 1946 and 1948, and is primarily due to competition from other types of containers. Shingle and sawed shake bolt production was less in 1950 than in 1946; but most of the decrease has taken place in the Pine region, for production in the Redwood region has dropped only slightly. Pole production was less in 1950 than in 1946, but more piling was produced in 1950.

Douglas-fir was the leading species by volume for all but two of the products listed. Most of the Douglas-fir came from the Redwood region. Of the two exceptions, redwood was the leading species for shingles and sawed shakes, and ponderosa pine for poles. Ponderosa pine was the second species by volume for plywood logs, veneer logs, and piling. Redwood was also used to some extent for plywood, pulp, cooperage, and piling.

Table 1.- Production of logs and bolts by commodity and region, California, 1946, 1948, 1950

Commodity and region	Unit	1946 1/ Quantity	1948 2/ Quantity	1950 Quantity	Percent change 1948 to 1950
PLYWOOD 3/	M bd.ft.				
Redwood region		0	4/ 36,680	93,445	+155
Pine region		15,462	34,760	49,040	+ 41
Total both regions		15,462	71,440	142,485	+ 99
PULPWOOD	M bd.ft.				
Redwood region		0	9,700	38,685	+299
Pine region		2,241	6,227	10,155	+ 63
Total both regions		2,241	15,927	48,840	+207
CONTAINER VENEER	M bd.ft.				
Redwood region		15,730	4/ 14,140	14,180	+ 0
Pine region		17,075	17,610	3,725	- 79
Total both regions		32,805	31,750	17,905	- 44
SHINGLE & SAWED SHAKE	M bd.ft.				
Redwood region		13,590	no survey	13,550	--
Pine region		3,720	no survey	1,290	--
Total both regions		17,310		14,840	
COOPERAGE	M bd.ft.				
Redwood region		11,306	7,256	5,275	- 27
(none in Pine region)					
POLES	Pieces				
Both regions		21,690	no survey	12,325	--
PILING	Lin. ft.				
Both regions		172,460	no survey	547,950	--

1/ From Forest Survey Release No. 6, California Forest and Range Experiment Station.

2/ From Forest Research Note No. 63, California Forest and Range Experiment Station.

3/ Compiled from consumption and stocks data provided by Bureau of the Census, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, and from Station records.

4/ Production of one mill peeling green veneer for plywood plants, which was included with veneer data in Forest Research Note No. 63, is here shifted to plywood.

Table 2.- Estimated plywood log production[1/] by species and region, California - 1950

Species	Redwood region	Pine region	Both regions	
			Volume	Percent
	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	
Douglas-fir	88,265	2,750	91,015	64
Ponderosa pine	0	39,545	39,545	28
Others[2/]	5,180	6,745	11,925	8
All species	93,445	49,040	142,485	100
Number of plants	9	4	13	-

1/ Computed from log consumption and stocks data, provided by Bureau of the Census, U. S. Dept. of Commerce, with adjustments based on local information.

2/ Primarily redwood and true firs.

Table 3.- Pulp log and bolt production[1/] by species and region, California - 1950

Species	Redwood region	Pine region	Both regions	
			Volume	Percent
	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	
Douglas-fir	26,445	0	26,445	54
Redwood	12,240	0	12,240	25
True firs	0	[2/]7,340	7,340	15
Eucalyptus	0	1,855	1,855	4
Monterey pine	0	960	960	2
All species	38,685	10,155	48,840	100
Number of plants	(3/)	(3/)	3/3	-

1/ Pulpwood measured in cords converted to M bd. ft. on the basis of 1 cord = 500 bd. ft.; e.g. 48,840 M bd. ft. = 97,680 cords.

2/ Includes a very small amount of ponderosa pine.

3/ Plants not allocated to regions because one plant obtained logs from both regions.

Table 4.- Container veneer log production by species and region, California - 1950

Species	Redwood region	Pine region	Both regions	
			Volume	Percent
	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	
Douglas-fir	13,560	0	13,560	76
Ponderosa pine	0	3,725	3,725	21
Sitka spruce	620	0	620	3
All species	14,180	3,725	17,905	100
Number of plants	2	6	8	-

Table 5.- Estimated production of bolts for shingles and sawed shakes[1] by species and region, California - 1950

Species	Redwood region	Pine region	Both regions	
			Volume	Percent
	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	M bd.ft.	
Redwood	[2] 13,550	0	13,550	91
Bigtree	0	860	860	6
Sugar pine	0	430	430	3
All species	13,550	1,290	[3] 14,840	100
Number of plants	42	14	56	-

1/ Shingle and shake bolts measured in cords were converted to M bd. ft. on the basis of 1 cord = 715 bd. ft.; e.g. 14,840 M bd. ft. = 20,760 cords.

2/ Del Norte and Humboldt Counties produced 10,300 M bd. ft. and Mendocino and coastal counties to the south produced 3,250 M bd. ft.

3/ Of this total, 12,890 M bd. ft. were reported by 46 mills, the balance being the estimated production of 10 non-reporting mills known or believed to have been active.

Table 6.- Cooperage log production by species and region, California - 1950

Species	Redwood region	
	Volume	Percent
	M bd.ft.	
Douglas-fir	3,755	71
Sitka spruce	1,160	22
Redwood	200	4
Grand fir	160	3
All species	5,275	100
Number of plants	1/ 1	

1/ Permission to publish these statistics has been granted by the producer.

Table 7.- Estimated production of poles and piling 1/ by subregion and species, California - 1950

Region	Species	Poles		Piling	
		Pieces	Cu.ft.	Lin.ft.	Cu.ft.
Redwood region	Douglas-fir	280	4,355	219,560	148,230
	Redwood	-	-	107,800	84,625
	Subtotal	280	4,355	327,360	232,855
Pine region	Ponderosa pine	7,035	108,740	168,410	91,845
	Douglas-fir	5,010	77,425	-	-
	Subtotal	12,045	186,165	168,410	91,845
Undetermined	Eucalyptus	-	-	52,180	32,675
Both regions	Douglas-fir	5,290	81,780	219,560	148,230
	Ponderosa pine	7,035	108,740	168,410	91,845
	Redwood	-	-	107,800	84,625
	Eucalyptus	-	-	52,180	32,675
	All species	12,325	190,520	547,950	357,375

1/ One of the smaller concentration yards of a total of six obtaining poles and piling from California failed to report its volume, which has been estimated for inclusion in this table.